

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1162 - HB 1239**

March 31, 2021

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes the State Election Commission and county election commissions to utilize technology to identify fingerprints of voters for purposes of conducting elections in this state.

Requires each state agency, including the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), with a fingerprint database to collaborate with the Secretary of State (SOS) to facilitate the authorization.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$77,830,900/FY21-22/Division of Elections  
\$100,000/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years/TBI**

**Increase Local Expenditures - \$77,830,900/FY21-22/Permissive**

**Assumptions:**

- As of October 12, 2020, there were 4,428,500 registered voters in the state of Tennessee.
- The proposed language is not specific as to how the State and local Election Commissions will identify fingerprints of voters to conduct elections; however, it is presumed that recording or identifying fingerprints of voters will result in an expenditure equivalent to fingerprint background checks required by multiple agencies throughout the state.
- A national criminal background check costs \$35.15.
- The disbursement of the background check fee is as follows:
  - o Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI): \$13.25;
  - o Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): \$13.25; and
  - o Applicable vendor: \$8.65.
- The proposed language is not specific as to who would bear the cost of identifying the fingerprints of voters; it is assumed a 50 percent split between the State Election Commission and local county election commissions.
- An increase in state expenditures, to the Division of Elections, in FY21-22, of \$77,830,888 (4,428,500 x \$35.15 x 50.0%).
- An increase in state expenditures, to local governments, in FY21-22, of \$77,830,888 (4,428,500 x \$35.15 x 50.0%).

- It is assumed that the recurring increase in expenditures to store and utilize a fingerprint database would be incurred by the TBI.
- According to the TBI, the only existing database that could be used for identification is the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.
- After collection of fingerprints of registered voters, the TBI would incur and increase in workflow expenditures to the database of \$100,000 annually.
- A recurring increase in state expenditures to the TBI, beginning in FY21-22 and subsequent years, of \$100,000.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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